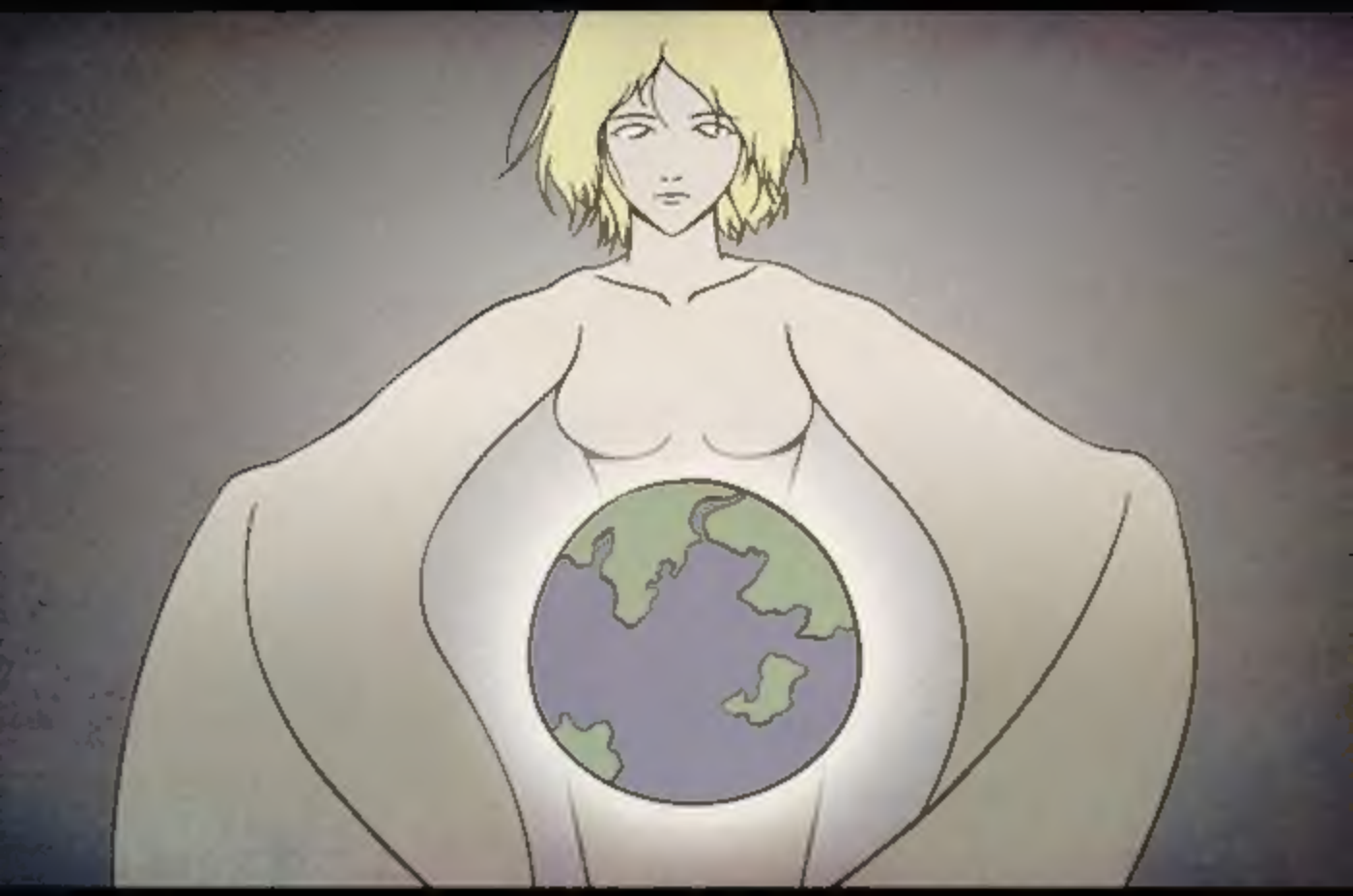
RICH IN NATURAL RESOURCES.
A WARM CLIMATE. OUTSTANDING VIEWS.

A CONTINENT BLESSED
BY THE GODDESS KIMIRAN. ELDORANIA



AT THE CENTER OF ELDORANIA.

THE HOLY CITY OF NAVIA,

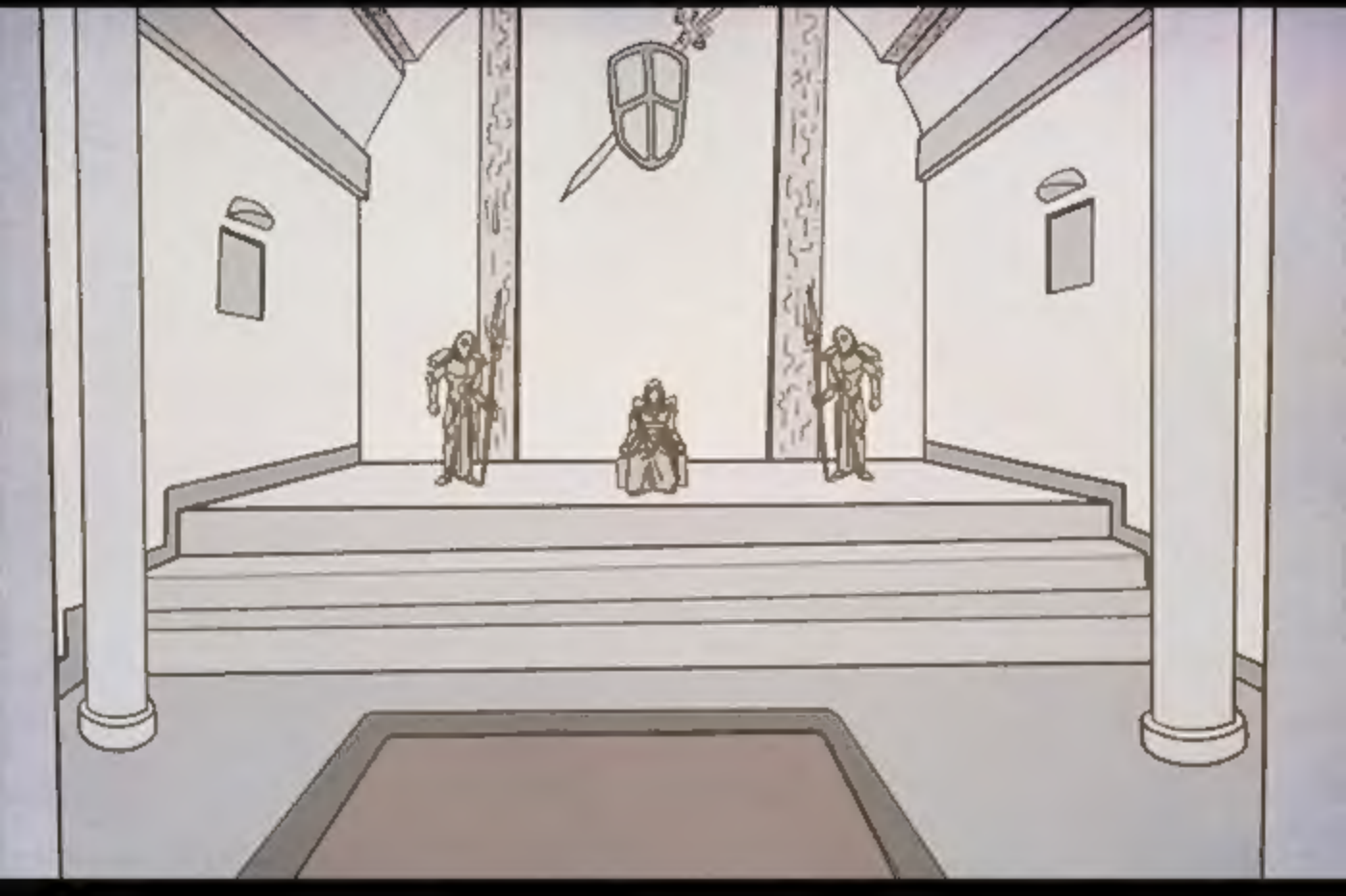
THE CENTER OF GLOBAL TRADE WITH ITS LAND AND SEA TRADE ROUTES,

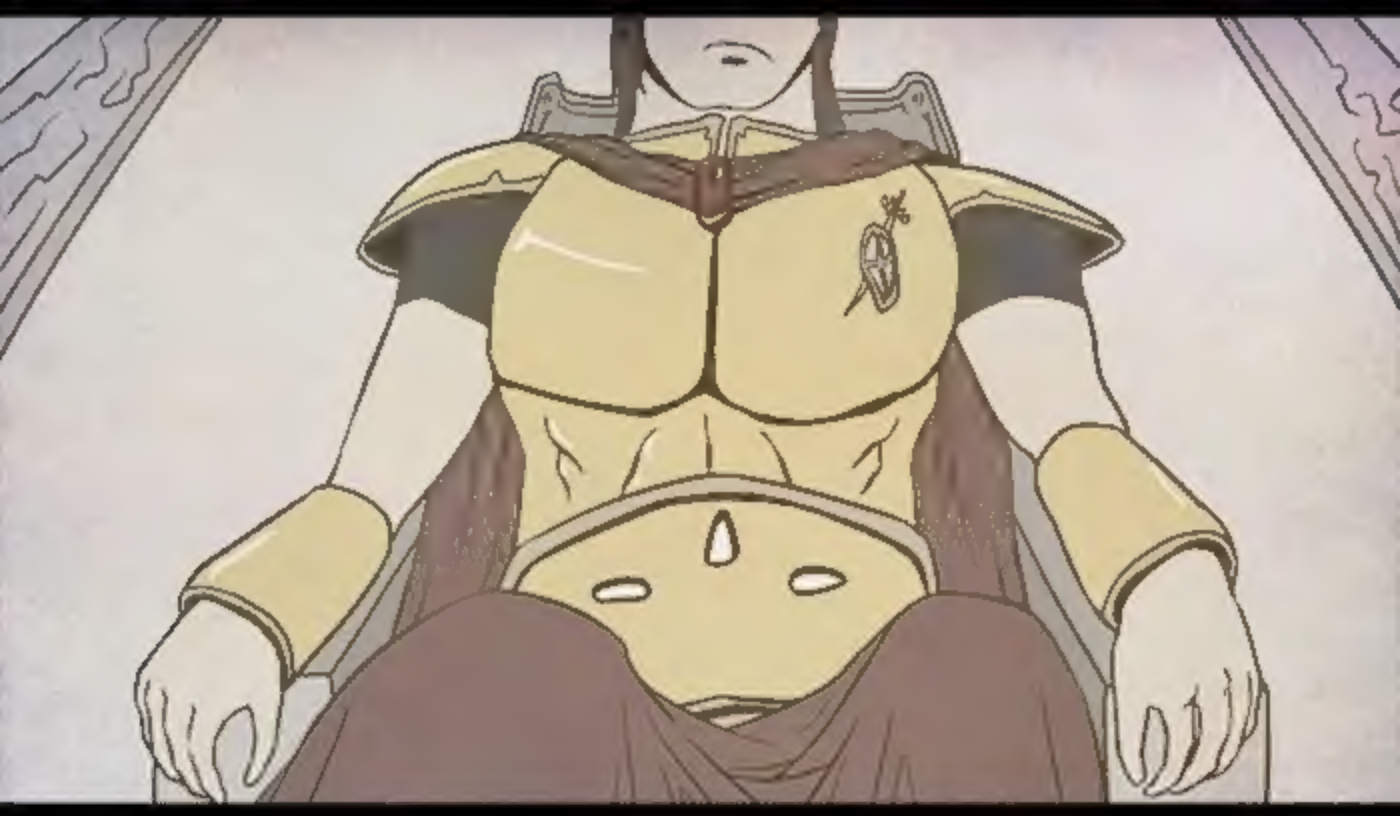
A PLACE WITH STABLE PRICES AND POWERFUL DEFENSES WHERE ANYONE WOULD WANT TO LIVE.

THIS IS THE CAPITAL OF ELDORANIA.

AND I

AM THE BENEVOLENT KIND BLANC-MAIN





RULING OVER THIS CONTINENT.

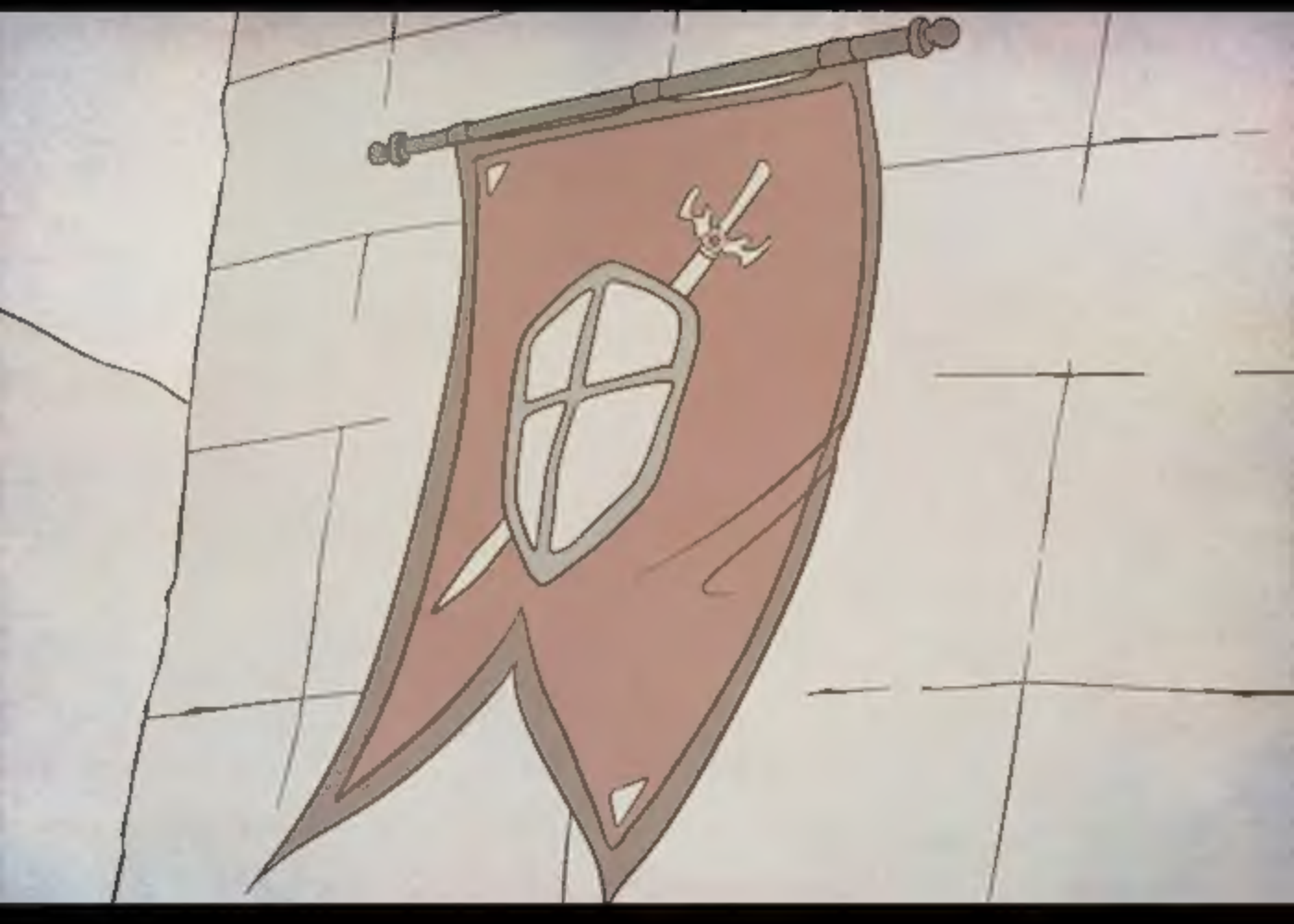
PEOPLE PRAISE ME

FOR MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN CREATING AN AGE OF PROSPERITY THROUGH LOW TAX RATES AND FREE TRADE.

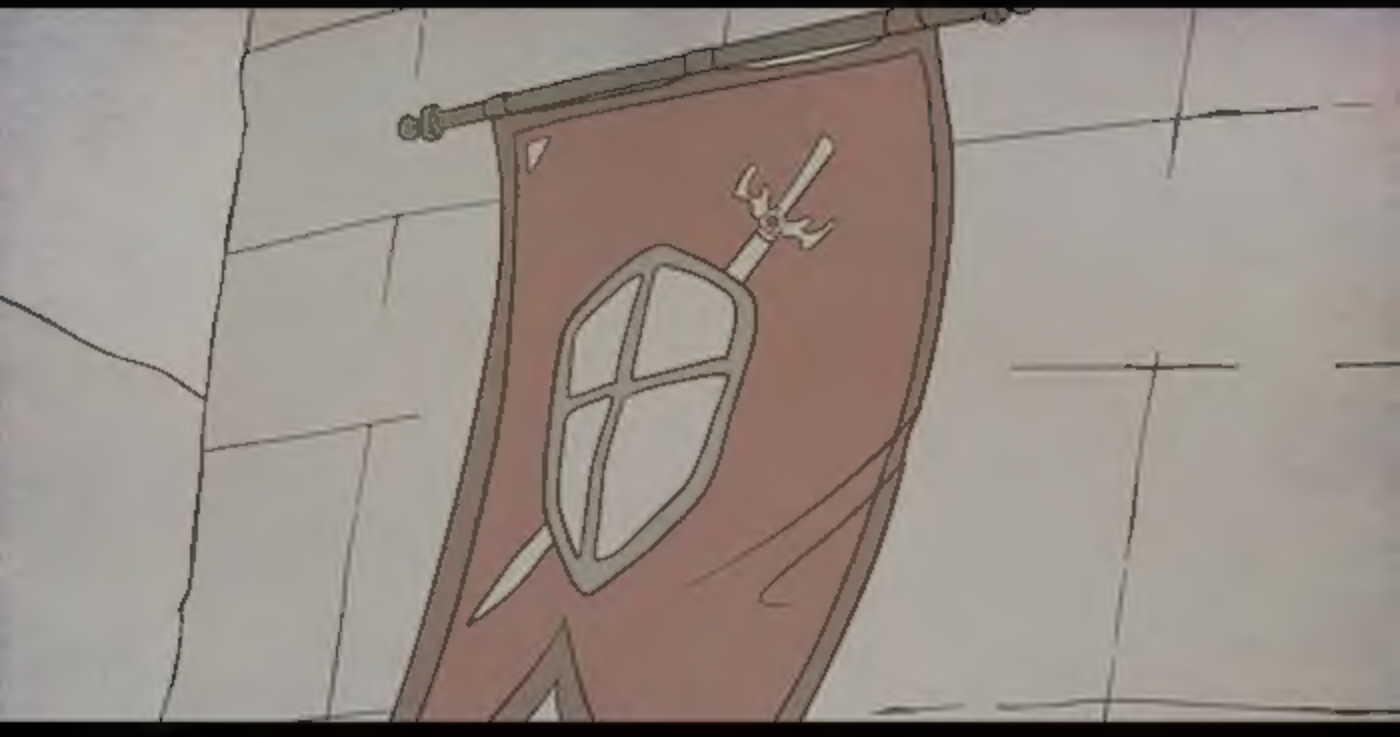
POETS SING

OF MY BRAVERY IN LEADING SOLDIERS INTO BATTLE WITHOUT CONCERN FOR MY OWN SAFETY.

EVERYONE PUT THEIR VOICES TOGETHER



AND SANG OF THE NOBLE KING BLANC-MAIN
OF NAVIA AS A GREAT MAN TO BE PRAISED
FOR ALL ETERNITY.



BUT

SINCE NOTHING BENEATH THE HEAVENS IS ETERNAL,

THIS WORLD,

AND ME, BEING A PART OF IT,

SENSE THAT IT IS TIME

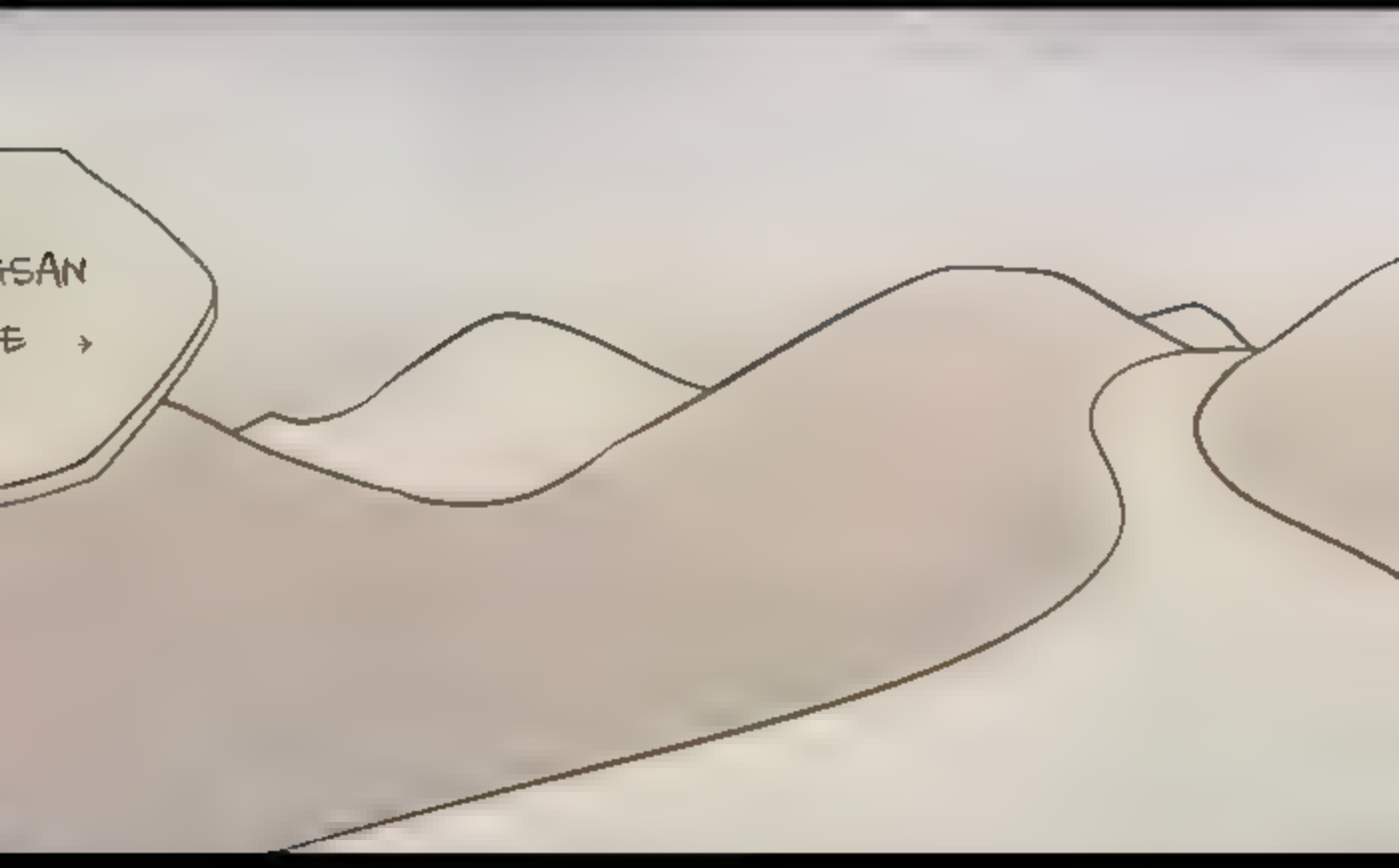
TO PUT DOWN THE SCALE AND SWORD.

FRIDAY
FORBIDDEN TALES
禁曜日

EP.0. THE TALE OF BLANC-MAIN (I)

THE BEGINNING OF BLANC-MAIN'S TALE.

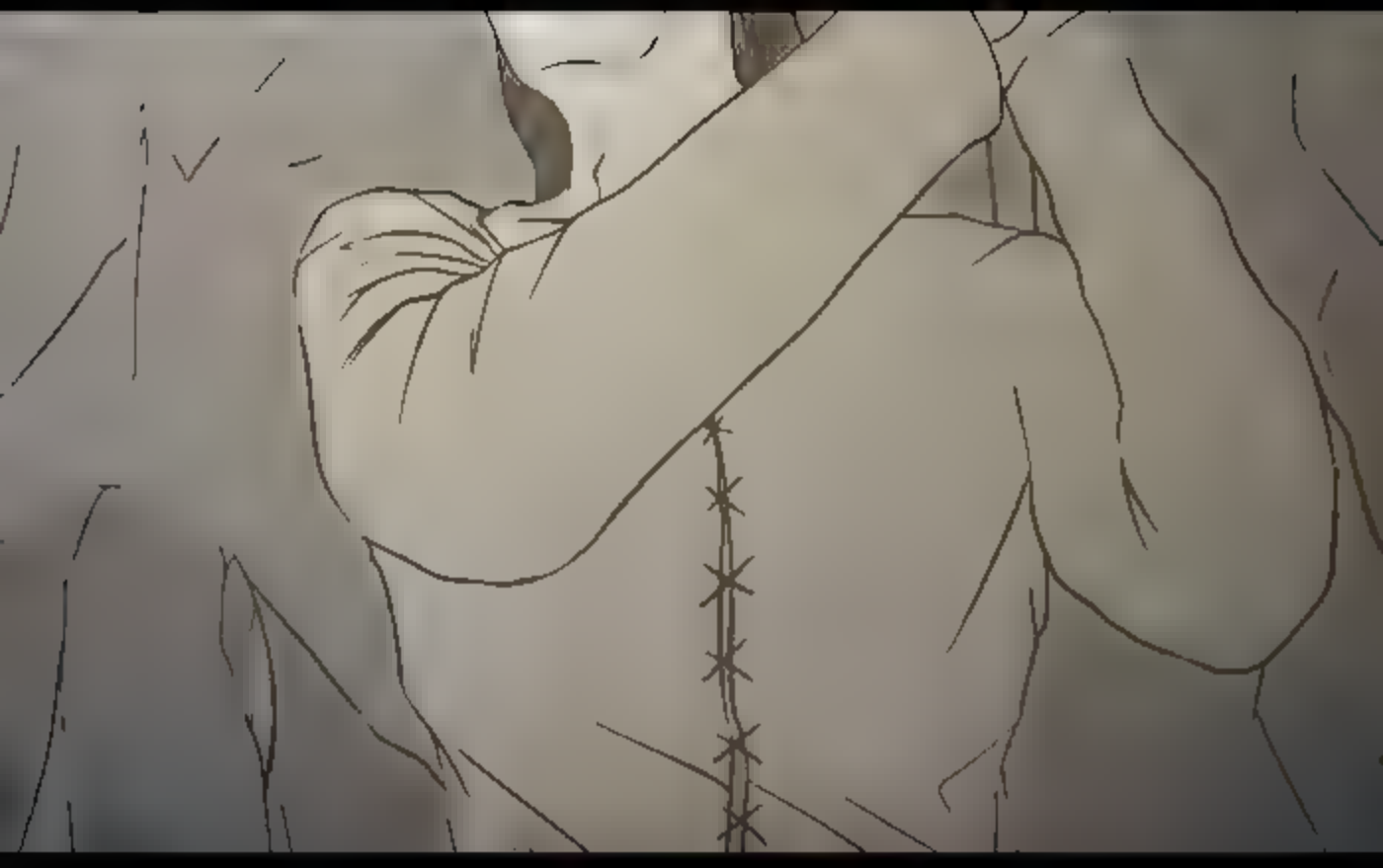
GOES BACK DOZENS OF YEARS
BEFORE THE PRESENT TIME.

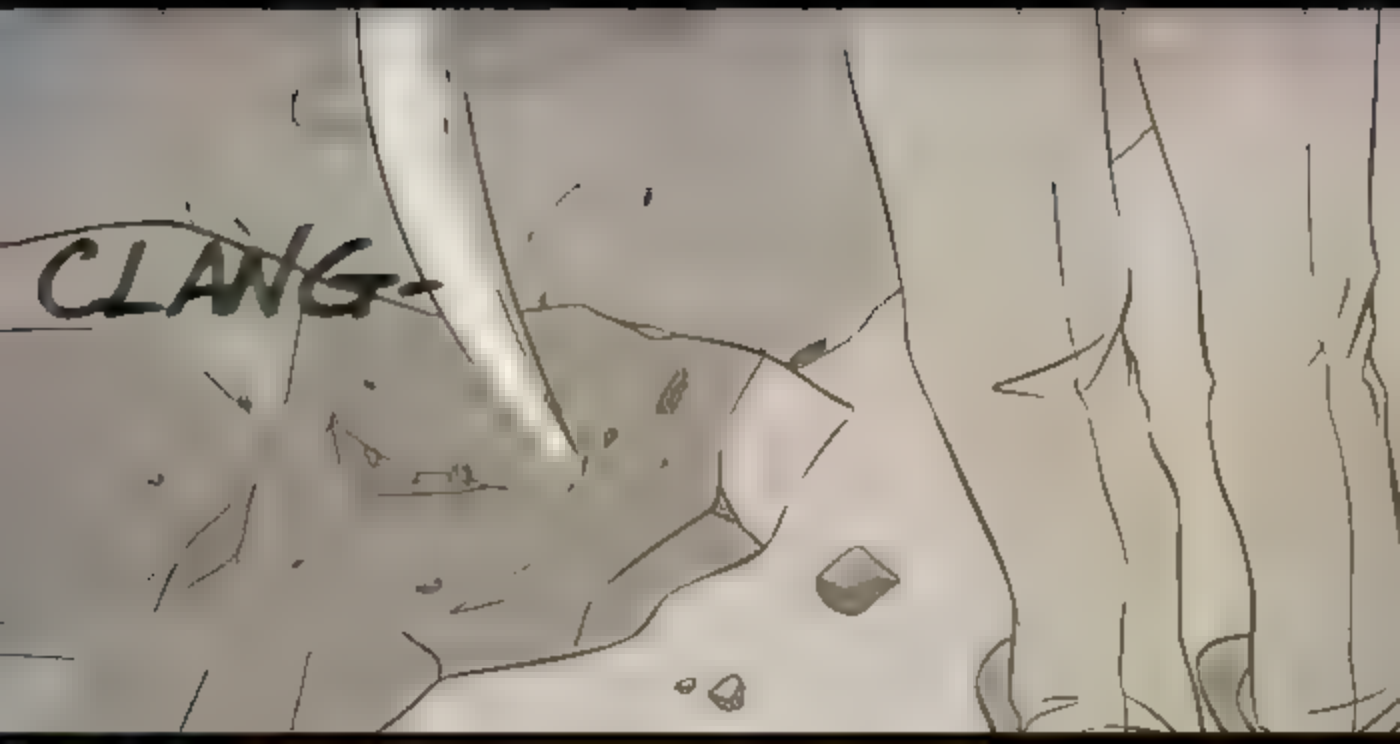


MY JOURNEY BEGAN IN GWANGSAN VILLAGE
ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF ELDORANIA.

ASIDE FROM EATING AND SLEEPING,
I WOULD SPENT ALL DAY

DIGGING FOR BITS OF GOLD.

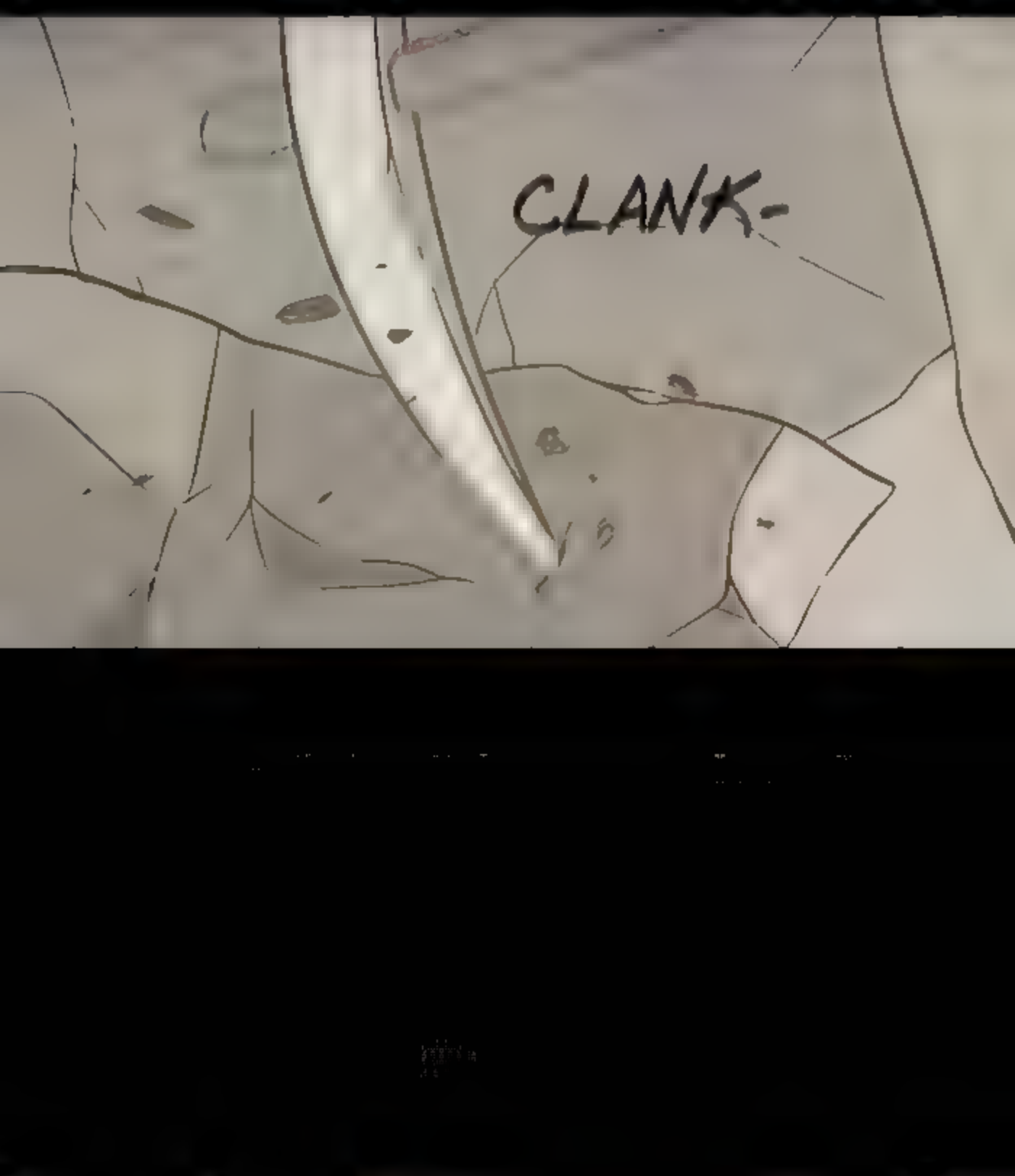




I DIDN'T REALLY DO IT
BECAUSE I HAD SOME KIND OF GOAL OR DREAM.

SELLING ORE WAS THE ONLY PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY
I COULD DO TO KEEP AN UNSKILLED PERSON
LIKE MYSELF ALIVE.

THAT'S ALL.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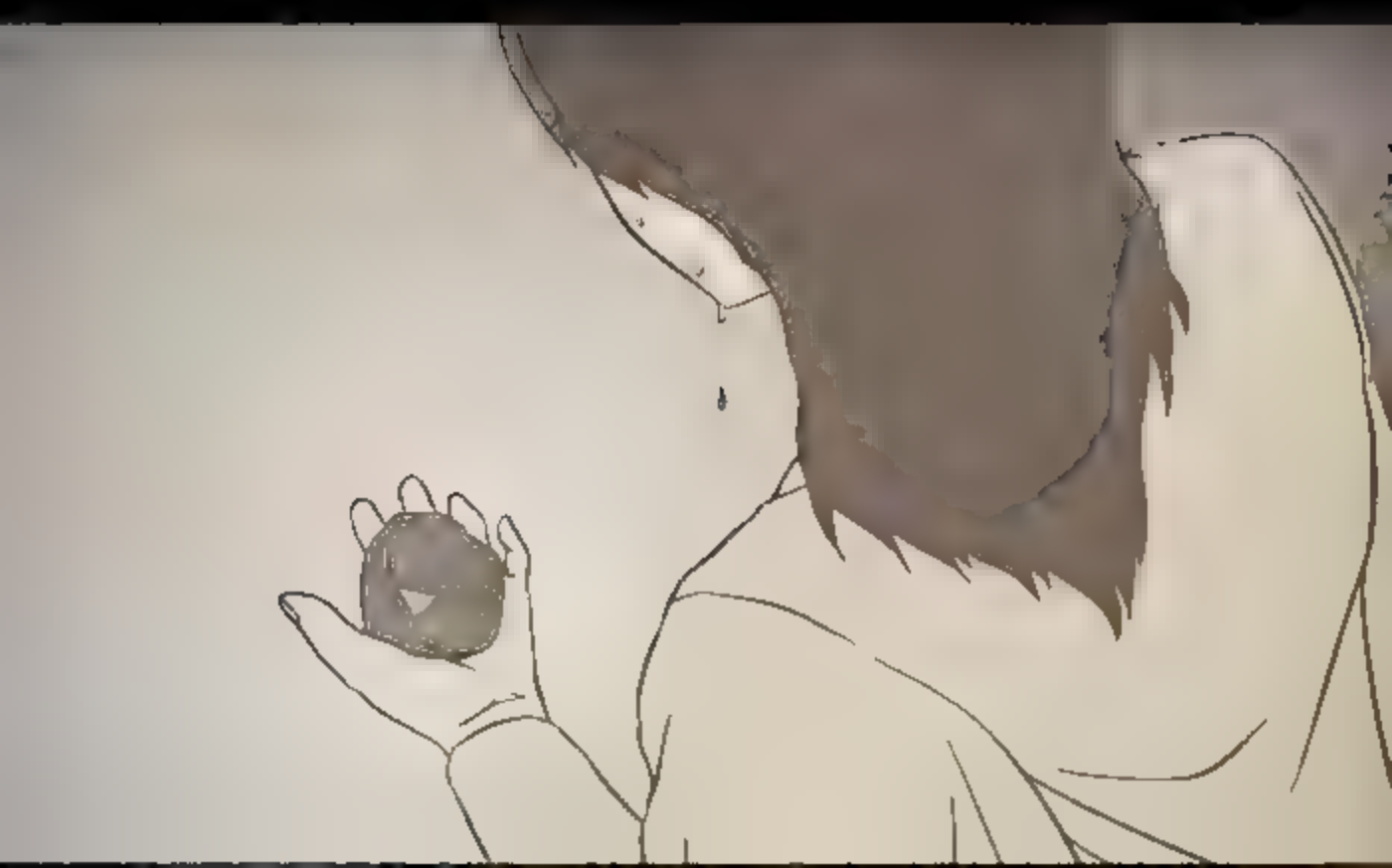
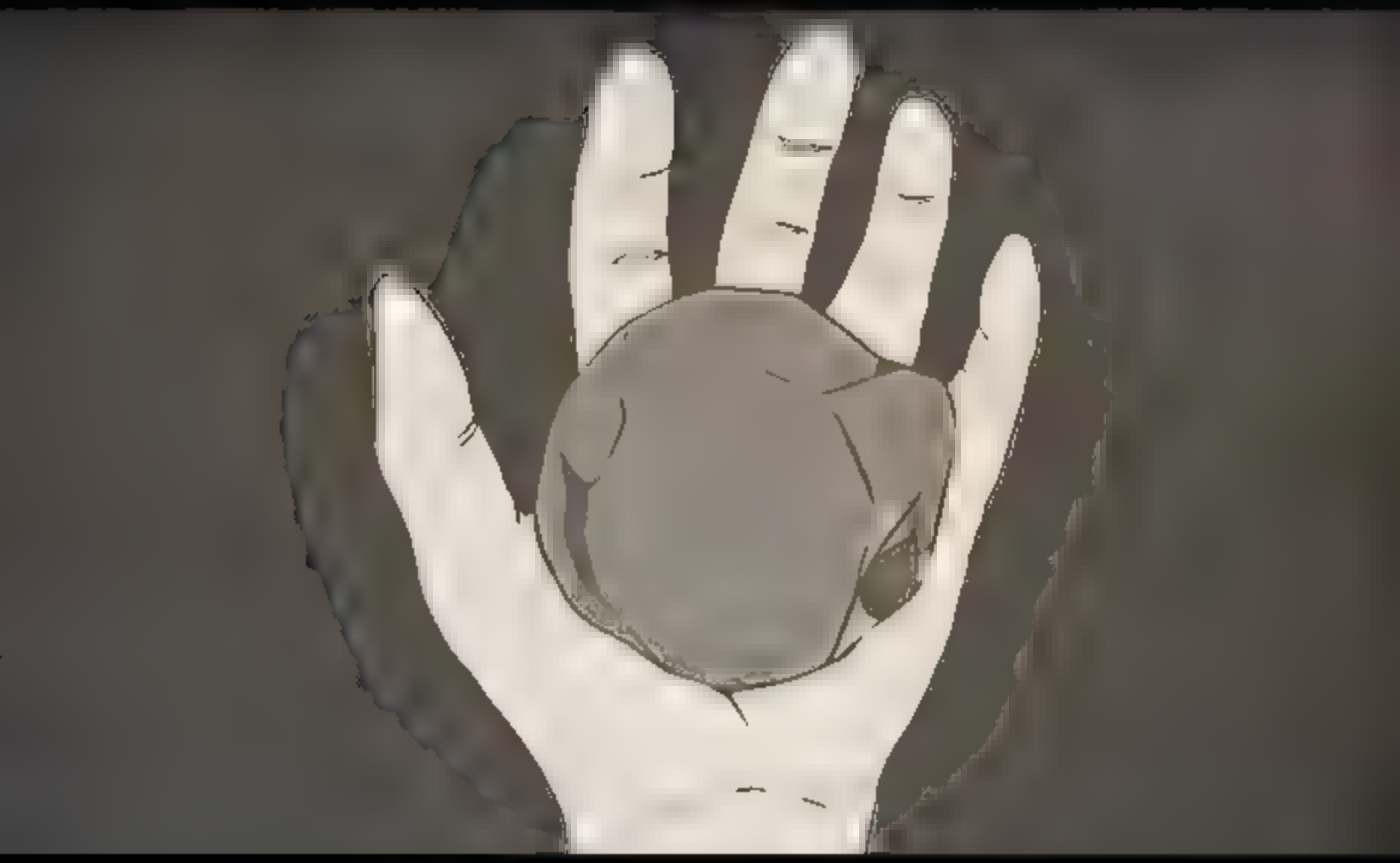
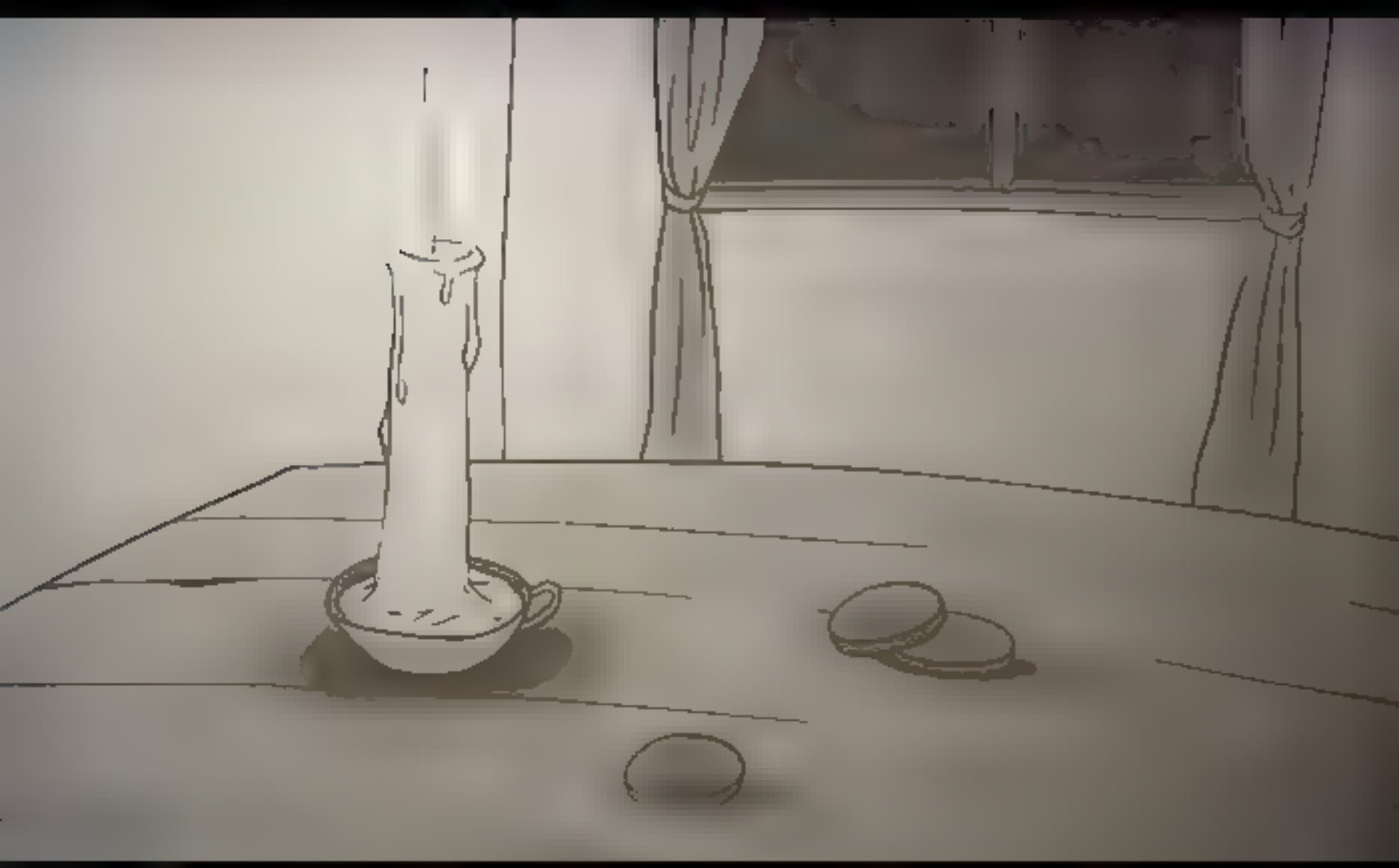




THEN ONE DAY,

A BIT OF UNEXPECTED GOOD FORTUNE
CAME MY WAY.

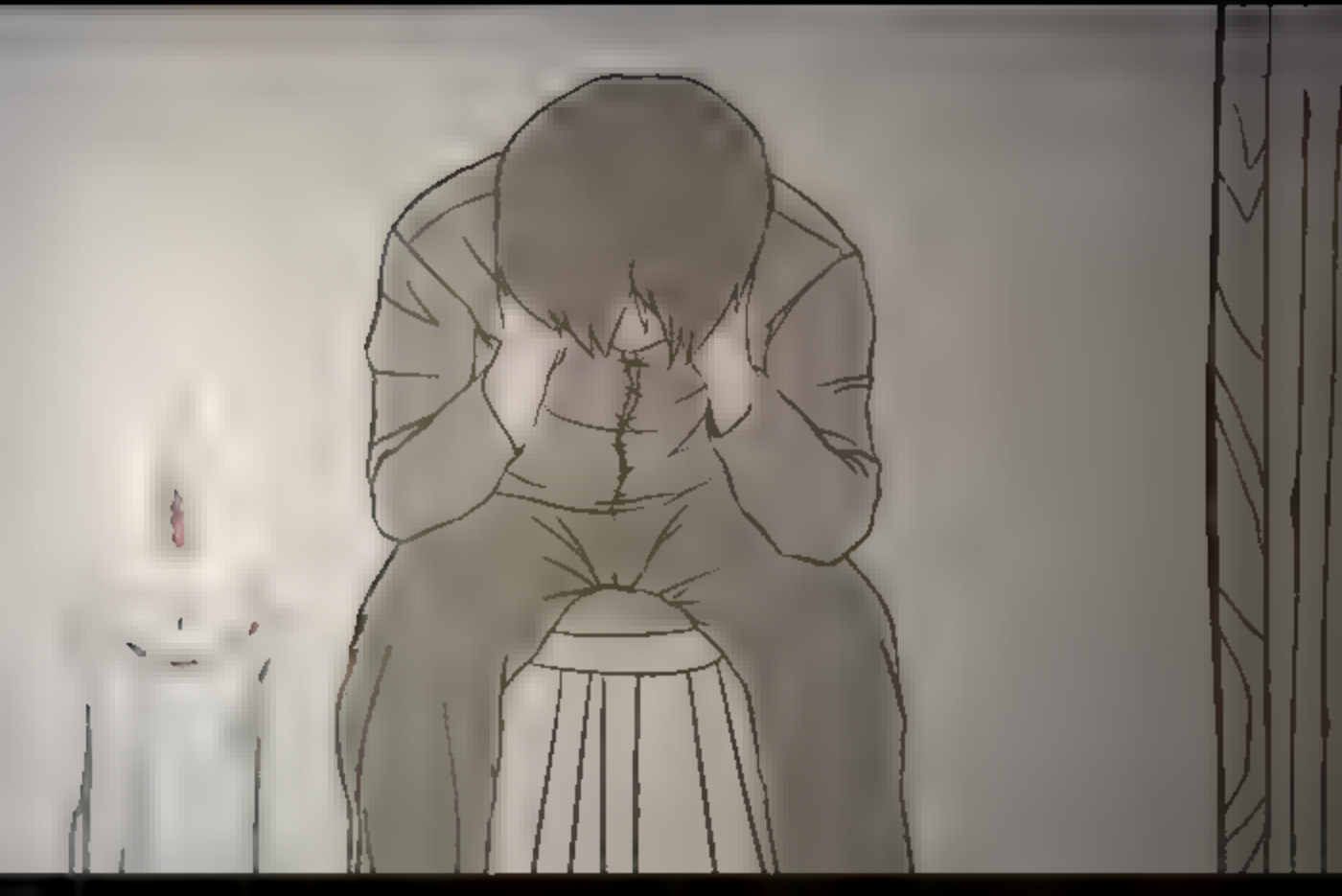


THE PRICE OF THE ORE
I WAS MINING SUDDENLY SKYROCKETED,

AND THE ORE THAT I HAD PILED UP IN MY WAREHOUSE

WENT FROM BEING NEARLY USELESS
TO BEING WORTH AS MUCH AS GOLD.

WHEN SUDDENLY I GOT MY HANDS
ON THIS UNEXPECTED FORTUNE,
A NEW WORRY ENTERED MY MIND.



SHOULD I STOP WORKING HERE

AND LEAVE ELDORANIA TO START A NEW LIFE?

OR SHOULD I USE THIS OPPORTUNITY AS A CHANCE

TO MOVE UP IN SOCIETY?

I DECIDED ON THE LATTER.

I'LL TELL YOU RIGHT NOW THAT
THIS WAS A MISJUDGMENT.

THE REASON FOR THIS MISJUDGMENT
WAS THAT I MISTAKENLY THOUGHT
THAT I STILL HAD PLENTY OF TIME LEFT...

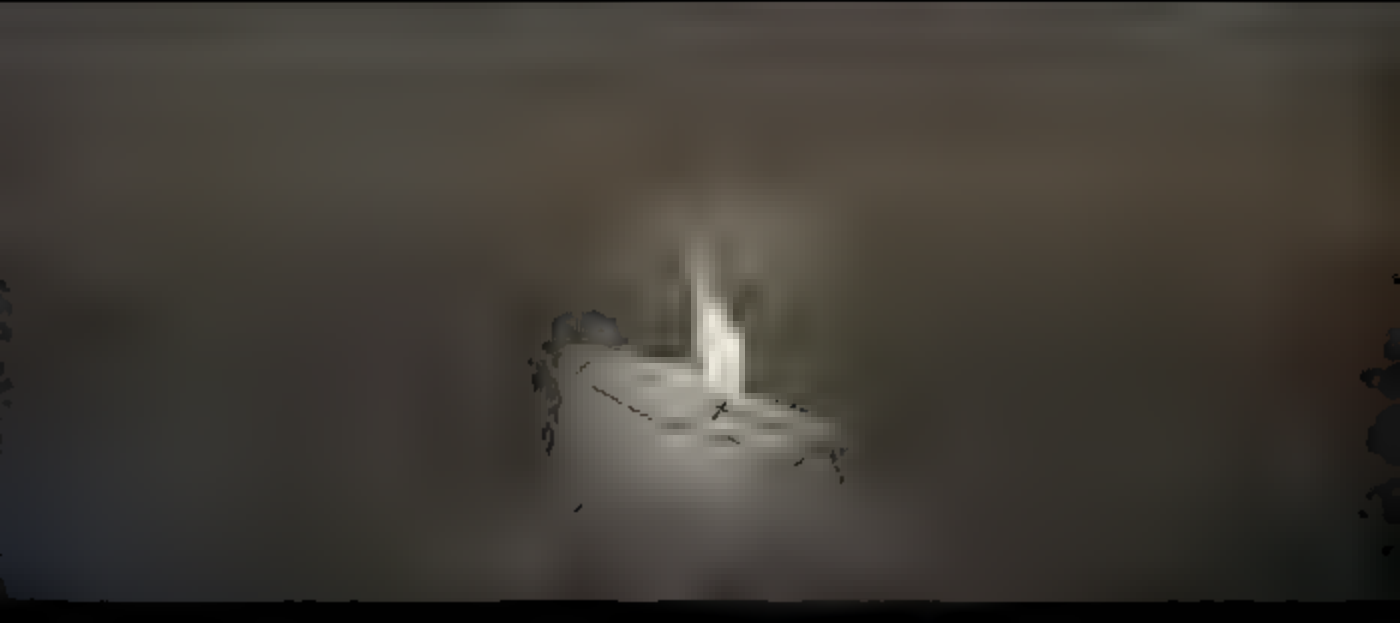
MAYBE I HAD A LOT OF PHYSICAL TIME LEFT.

BUT 'TIME,' WHEN APPLIED TO AN INDIVIDUAL,
REFERS TO A 'PERIOD'

AND THIS 'PERIOD' MEANS
THAT IF YOU MISS THE RIGHT TIME

IT'S VERY HARD TO TURN BACK.

I OVERLOOKED THIS FACT.



OR RATHER, I TRIED HARD TO IGNORE IT.

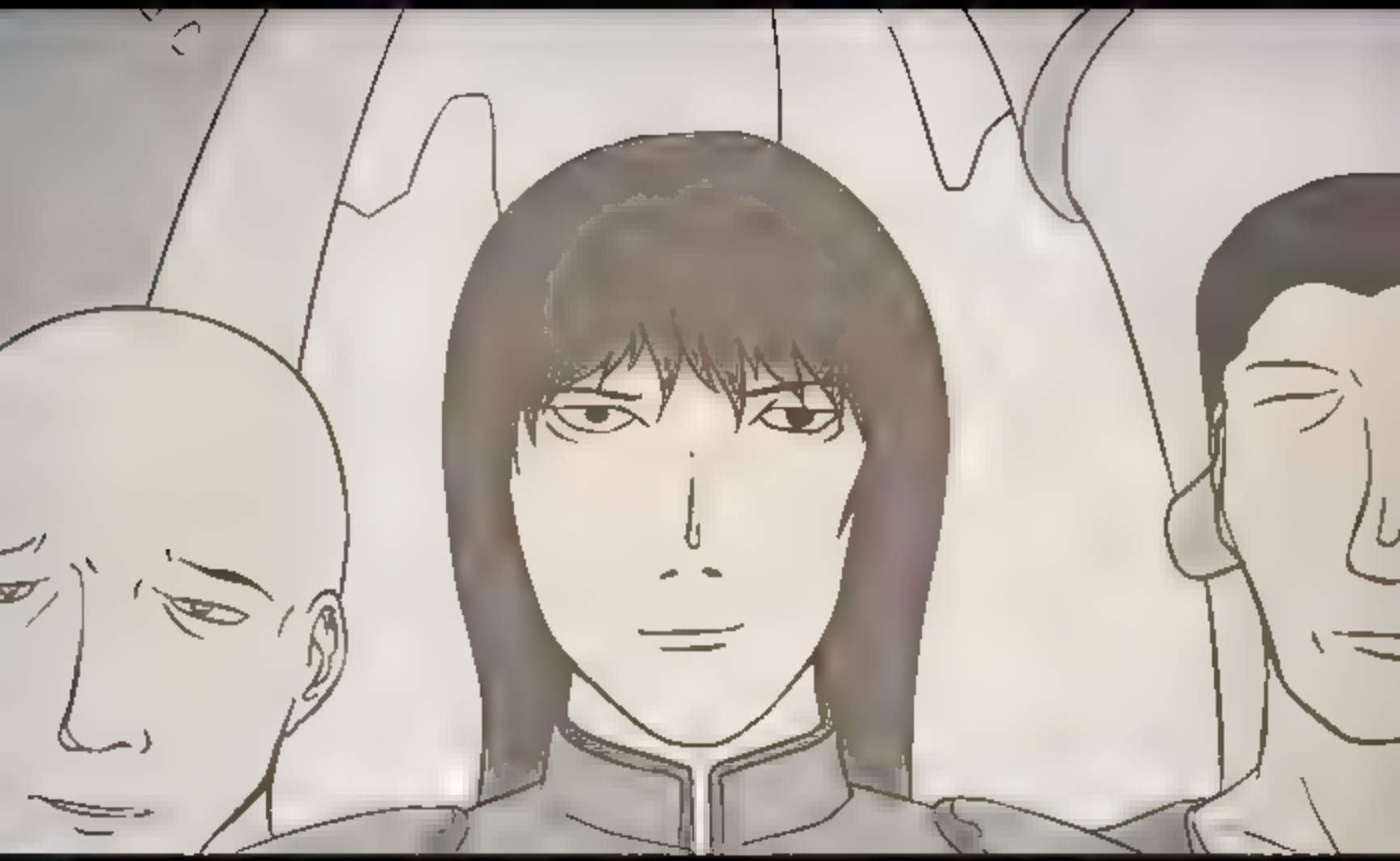
I LEFT FOR THE BIG CITY AND PURCHASED THE BEST EQUIPMENT THAT I COULD.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD,
SO WORD OF MY SUCCESS QUICKLY SPREAD

AND I WAS OFFERED A POSITION AS A SCOUT
FOR A LARGE GROUP OF MERCENARIES.

I BELIEVE THAT TIME

MAY HAVE BEEN WHEN I MOST
INNOCENTLY FELT A SENSE OF FULFILLMENT
AND SATISFACTION WITH MY LIFE.



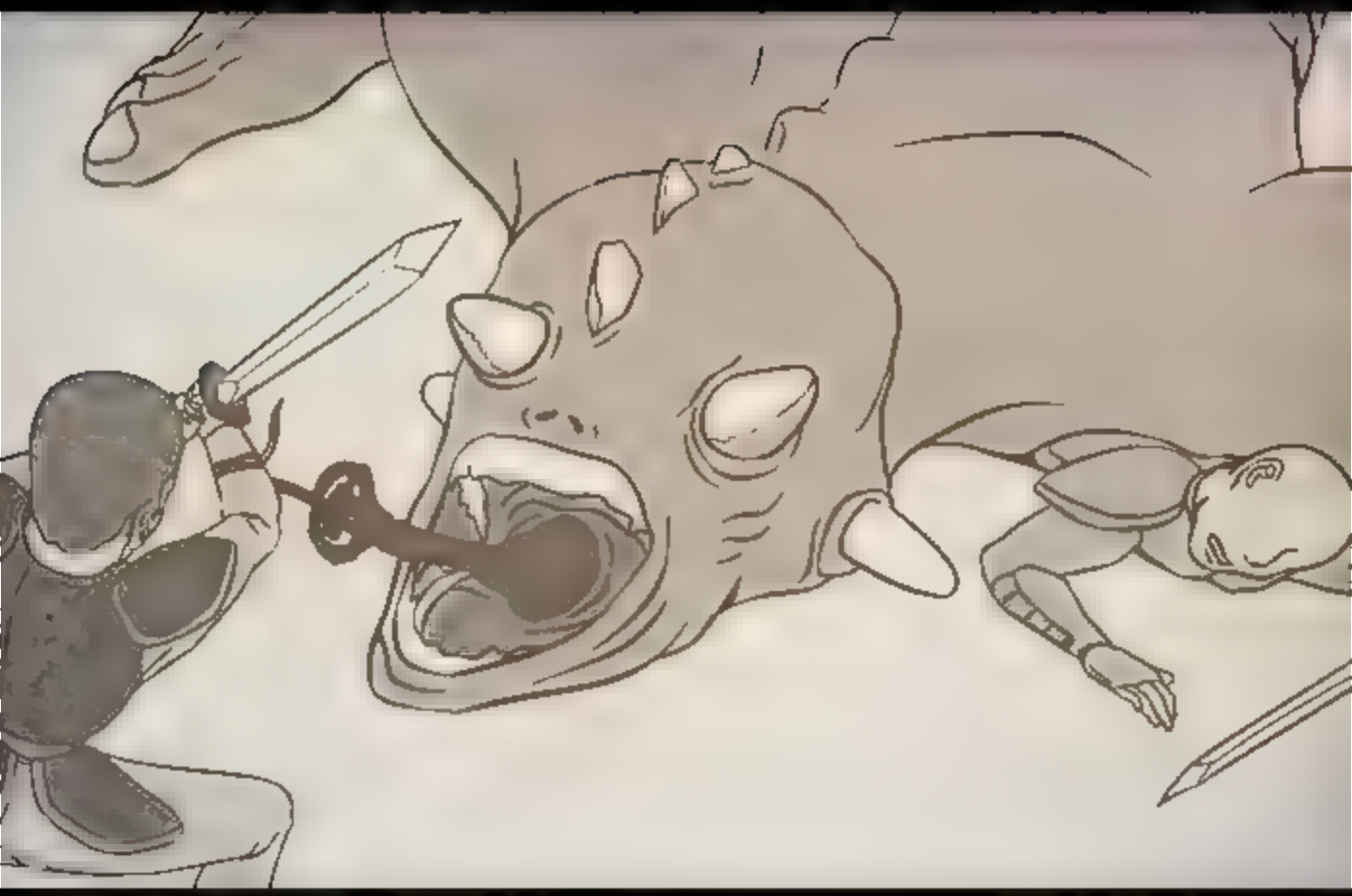
HAVING SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE ALONE,
I NOW FINALLY HAD COMPANIONS.

I HAD FRIENDS WHO WOULD FACE ADVERSITY
AND WRESTLE WITH HARDSHIP BY MY SIDE.

I WAS DEVOTED TO THEM. I INVESTED ALL OF MY MONEY IN ACQUIRING BETTER WEAPONS AND ARMOR FOR THEM,

AND I WAS GENEROUS IN ORDER TO HELP MY COMPANIONS.

I MYSELF LIVED SO FRUGALLY THAT I WAS BARELY ABLE TO HAVE EVEN ONE MEAL A DAY.



AS LONG AS THEY WATCHED MY BACK
AND STOOD BY MY SIDE

I WAS PREPARED TO MAKE EVEN MORE
DRASTIC SACRIFICES FOR THEM.

SWISH
SPLAT!

EVEN IF THAT SACRIFICE

MEANT HANDING OVER

THE REAL STORY OF MY LIFE.

NEXT WEEK, THE TALE OF BLANC-MAIN (2)

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